



KRISTY TAYLOR, 2018

Join Us

AT OUR MARCH MEETING!

MARCH 5 – Hibernation, Bats, and White-nose Syndrome
Speaker - Dr. Allen Kurta

The program will explain what hibernation is, why bats do it, and where in the state hibernating bats are found. **Dr. Kurta** will discuss the overwintering behavior of the nine species of bats in Michigan and concentrate on the species that overwinter underground, in mines and caves. The presentation will conclude with an introduction to white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed millions of hibernating bats in eastern North America and decimated populations throughout our state.

Dr. Allen Kurta received a B.S. and M.S. in Zoology from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. in Biology from Boston University. His research for the past 40 years has focused on the ecology and behavior of bats, with an emphasis on the endangered Indiana bat and threatened northern long-eared bat. He has published over 100 papers in scientific journals, and he has authored or edited numerous books, including, *Mammals of the Great Lakes Region*, *The Bats of Puerto Rico*, and *Bats of Michigan*. Dr. Kurta is Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee on Mammals for the Endangered Species Program of the Michigan DNR, and former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the North American Society for Bat Research.

The meeting will begin with refreshments at 7:00p.m. followed by the program at 7:30.

This meeting will be held in the Michigan Nature Association Education Room.

Dedicated to creating a greater awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the interrelatedness of all Michigan's wild places and wildlife and the need for stewardship.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring is almost here and I cannot wait to welcome all of the migrating warblers and our summer residents back to Michigan. Getting outside everyday without extra layers, hats, gloves and boots will be here in no time!

Each spring, as excited as I am to get outside, I find myself eagerly anticipating not the first American Robin of the year, but the first Turkey Vulture.

If food is plentiful and winter isn't too harsh, many robins will stay here all winter switching to a diet of mainly berries and fruit. Vultures on the other hand migrate to the southern states and only return when the warm favorable winds can help them on their journeys and soften the carrion frozen over the winter.

On my recent visit to Florida I was very excited to see large groups of vultures along the waterways and high over the skyscrapers of Miami. They may be a bird only a mother could love, but the amazing services they supply to the ecosystem, and possibly the supreme ugliness of their

gaze makes them one of my favorite springtime birds!

This spring, finding a favorite spot to go birding is easier than ever. Join us at a spring bird walk at Fenner Nature Center, Saturday mornings in April and May. (Let me know if you would like to lead a walk!)

Walks are led by Michigan Audubon every Tuesday in the spring and various nature centers offer walks and workshops throughout the spring as well.

For something a little different, join me at a night time walk with Michigan Audubon, Saturday, March 7th at the Capital City Bird Sanctuary for an Owl Prowl.

If you are inspired by our talk on bats, you can join a walk at MSU and get a glimpse of the different bat species that call Michigan home. The MSU Bat Association offers walks starting at Beaumont Tower and includes echo-monitors to hear the bats! Check out their website (below) for more information!

-Kristy Taylor

MARCH MEETING WELCOMES MSU GUESTS

At our March meeting, CAAS will welcome members of the MSU Bat Association as well as visitors from the MSU Community. Seating will be at a premium, so be sure to arrive early to make sure you have a seat.

To learn more about the MSU Bat Association and walks they offer throughout the year, visit - batassociation.org



UPCOMING CAAS EVENTS

April 2 – Birds of Asia

Dr. Pamela Rasmussen will share her vast knowledge and past work with Asian birds. Rasmussen, the lead author of *Birds of South Asia: The Ripley Guide*, is an assistant professor at MSU and assistant curator at the MSU Museum. She is also the coordinator of MSU's global bird sounds website **AVoCet**.

April 4, 11, 18, 25

Spring Migration Bird Walks

Enjoy spotting the latest spring arrivals at **Fenner Nature Center**. Walks start at **9:00 a.m.** We are still looking for leaders for our April walks; to sign up, email caascallnote@gmail.com

May 7 – Michigan Endangered Species

Join us to hear about many different endangered species that can be found here in Michigan. From the Lake Sturgeon, to the Spotted Turtle and the amazing recovery of the Kirtland's Warbler, we will learn about efforts all over Michigan to restore our native species.

May 2, 9, 16, 23 (Saturday mornings)

Spring Migration Bird Walks

Enjoy this peak warbler time at **Fenner Nature Center**. Walks start at **8:00 a.m.**

June 4 – Year-end ice cream social & members' photos

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the

Michigan Nature Association
2310 Science Parkway, Okemos, MI

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. with announcements and bird sightings followed by the program.

If you have an idea for a field trip or outing that you would be interested in hosting, please let a Board member know!

MEMBERSHIP

Support community programs with your CAAS Membership.

SEPTEMBER 2019 - AUGUST 2020

Membership Categories

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Contributing	\$30.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Donor	\$100.00

For a membership form, or to sign up online, visit - capitalareaaudubon.org

RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

As January's presenter Rachael Pierce mentioned, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act just passed in the House and will be moving on to the Senate.

The bill was introduced in the House on July 12, 2019 to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies.

According to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), The Recovering America's Wildlife Act ([H. R. 3742](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/congress/house-bill/3742)) will provide states, territories, and tribes with \$1.4 billion annually to catalyze proactive, on-the-ground, collaborative efforts to restore essential habitat and implement key conservation strategies, as described in each state's Wildlife Action Plan. This legislation follows the recommendation of a diverse group of conservation and industry leaders—the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources.

Here are some details from the NWF about the funds and how they will help wildlife and people:

- The House bill would provide \$1.4 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive, collaborative efforts by the states and tribes to recover wildlife species at risk.
- The state agencies have identified 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of conservation assistance in their federally-approved State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans would guide spending from the bill.
- Tribal Nations would receive \$97.5 million annually to fund proactive wildlife conservation efforts on tens of millions of acres of land.
- At least 10 percent of the resources would be used to recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act.
- A 2018 report, [Reversing America's Wildlife Crisis: Securing the Future of Our Fish and Wildlife](https://www.nwf.org/Reversing-America's-Wildlife-Crisis), found that one-third of America's wildlife species are at increased risk of extinction. More than 150 U.S. species already have gone extinct. Nearly 500 additional species have not been seen in recent decades and are regarded as possibly extinct.

To read the full bill, visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3742>

EXCITING SIGHTINGS

This February a few exciting sightings were reported in the area.

- A Turkey Vulture was reported on February 19th near I96 in Ingham County.
- A Eurasian Collared Dove is still near the farms on College Road at MSU.
- A Black-headed Grosbeak was photographed in Fowlerville by Julia Spalding on February 7th.

These sightings were reported at our last meeting or on eBird.com.

Do you have an exciting sighting to share? Email us at - caascallnote@gmail.com or share it on our facebook page - [facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)



Thank You!

Thanks to Cristy and David Bennett for providing the snacks for our February meeting and to Chad Krumnauer for sharing with us!

LOCAL EVENTS

Michigan Wildflower Conference
Sunday and Monday, March 1st and 2nd
Kellogg Conference Center
Michigan State University
 For registration, schedule or more information, visit - wildflowersmich.org

Michigan Audubon Owl Prowl
March 7 - 6-7:30 p.m.
Capital City Bird Sanctuary
6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, MI

Fenner Maple Syrup Festival
Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Fenner Nature Center invites everyone to come and explore some of the natural and cultural history surrounding Michigan's own "liquid gold" at the annual Maple Syrup Festival. The festival offers numerous fun and educational demonstrations and activities for the whole family. Spend the day exploring how sap is turned into sweet treats like syrup, maple crème, and candy. Visit mynaturecenter.org for more information.

MSU Science Fest
Activities the entire month of April
Expo Day on April 4, 10a.m.-4 p.m.
 Events will be held at the Michigan State University Campus and various locations across the state. For full details, visit sciencefestival.msu.edu.

Seeing Stars: How Birds Use the Night Sky to Navigate
Saturday, April 4, 3-4 p.m.
Abrams Planetarium, MSU
 Each fall and spring, many species of birds migrate thousands of miles, but how do they know where to go? This talk, held in the Abrams Planetarium, will describe bird migration and how birds use the stars to navigate throughout their journeys.

Michigan State Bird Observatory Ecology and More Expo Day
Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center
April 18 - 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
4200 Herbison Rd., Laingsburg, MI
 More information can be found at - www.burkelakebanding.com

MI Audubon Spring Fling
April 26-28
Whitefish Point, MI
 This year will mark the 31st annual Spring Fling Celebration of Bird Migration. Visit michiganaudubon.org/spring-fling/

EAST LANSING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

- Barb Hosler

On December 14, 2019, 51 people participated in the East Lansing Christmas Bird Count. Fifty-eight species were tallied, which is close to the five-year average (59) for this count. A total of 18,225 birds was counted, which is well above last year's total of 12,081 and slightly above the five- and ten-year averages for the count (17,426/17,247).

Greater white-fronted goose, a new species for the count was discovered by Chris Hull and Susan Norton. An Eastern Phoebe was reported by Jim McGrath. This is only the

second record for this species on the count; the first was in 1998. New highs were observed for Cackling Goose (6), Red-shouldered Hawk (2), Pileated Woodpecker (12), and Carolina Wren (30).

The top ten species were: 1) Canada Goose, 2) European Starling, 3) American Crow, 4) House Sparrow, 5) Mallard, 6) Rock Pigeon, 7) Black-capped Chickadee, 8) Mourning Dove, 9) Blue Jay, and 10) Cedar Waxwing.

A huge thanks to Sam and Liz Febba for hosting the compilation dinner again this year.

EAST LANSING 2019 CBC SPECIES LIST

1	Greater White-fronted Goose	1u	Winter Wren
3u	Snow Goose	30uR	Carolina Wren
6uR	Cackling Goose	1d	Golden-crowned Kinglet
7,324u	Canada Goose	67d	Eastern Bluebird
12s	Mute Swan	64u	American Robin
2u	Trumpeter Swan	2,834u	European Starling
3u	American Black Duck	351u	Cedar Waxwing
634d	Mallard	1u	Yellow-rumped Warbler
5u	Common Goldeneye	81u	American Tree Sparrow
2d	Common Merganser	179d	Dark-eyed Junco
136u	Wild Turkey	10u	White-throated Sparrow
6d	Great Blue Heron	7s	Song Sparrow
1s	Northern Harrier	5u	Swamp Sparrow
1d	Sharp-shinned Hawk	229d	Northern Cardinal
12u	Cooper's Hawk	206d	House Finch
3u	Bald Eagle	229d	American Goldfinch
2uR	Red-shouldered Hawk	794d	House Sparrow
31d	Red-tailed Hawk		
2u	Buteo sp.		
45d	Sandhill Crane		
127u	Ring-billed Gull		
14u	Herring Gull		
12u	Gull sp.		
468d	Rock Pigeon		
419u	Mourning Dove		
2u	Great Horned Owl		
2u	Barred Owl		
6u	Belted Kingfisher		
110u	Red-bellied Woodpecker		
140d	Downy Woodpecker		
26u	Hairy Woodpecker		
19d	Northern Flicker		
12uR	Pileated Woodpecker		
2d	American Kestrel		
1d	Peregrine Falcon		
1u	Eastern Phoebe		
392u	Blue Jay		
2,419u	American Crow		
428d	Black-capped Chickadee		
81u	Tufted Titmouse		
1d	Red-breasted Nuthatch		
213u	White-breasted Nuthatch		
11d	Brown Creeper		

Key: The number in front of the species name is the 2019 total. **R**=record total; **u**=up from 2018; **d**=down from 2018; **s**=same as 2018

Seen in 2019 but not in 2018: Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Common Goldeneye, Red-shouldered Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler

Seen in 2018 but not in 2019: Hooded Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Eastern Screech Owl, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Snow Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird, Pine Siskin

FIND YOUR FLOCK

- Charlie Kotz

The recently published study in the journal *Science*, estimated an overall 25% decline in North American bird populations over the last 50 years. The presentation by USFWS biologist Rachael Pierce at the January 9 Capital Area Audubon meeting reviewed this grim reality in detail.

So what can you do to help our bird populations recover? There are many decisions being made now by politicians that will allow this trend to continue, (or not)! Members of the Capital Area Audubon have the opportunity to begin to learn techniques, via a series of webinars provided by National Audubon. These webinars, called "Find Your Flock",

are designed to help members unite and learn effective techniques for engaging with elected officials. There is strength in numbers, and we need to make sure that our voice is heard to influence legislation that could adversely affect bird populations!

Please plan on listening in to this series of webinars. Go to Audubon.org/CampaignsRecording to tune in to the next live webinar. It is scheduled for March 10, at 8 pm. The topic is "How to Approach and Talk to an Elected Official". In addition, you can go to this website to watch the first two webinars that were archived.

BIRDING HOT SPOTS

Looking for a great place to go birding this spring? The Capital Area Audubon website lists many great parks and area locations to check out any time of year. www.capitalareaaudubon.org

Heading out of town? Check on the Michigan Audubon page or the websites for birding groups in those areas to see the places locals go to spot great birds.

Heading further afield or somewhere you have never been? Check out eBird's hot spot maps to find great areas to bird, complete listings of birds sighted there, and even the total number of bird species ever sighted at that location. For more information, visit ebird.com.

If you use the Audubon Bird App, click on the Explore tab (the little binoculars) and you can see the eBird hotspots near you. If you click on the species sightings, you can narrow it down to a species you are hoping to see, click that bird and it will give you the location it was spotted. Happy Birding!



Photo by Severn Hoschek

AREA EVENTS

Eastern Bluebird Festival
Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hagerly Center, 715 E. Front St.,
Traverse City, MI

The Michigan Bluebird Society is very pleased to announce the 15th Annual Spring Bluebird Festival. This is a day of fun and education with the focus on Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds in the state of Michigan. This event is geared toward any individual, family or group who is interested in learning how to use nest boxes, feeders, plantings and land management to encourage nesting birds such as Bluebirds. For more information, visit michiganbluebirds.org

Spring Migration Birding Tour
Maple River State Game Area
Saturday, March 28, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Start at the DNR Building on S. Crapo Rd./E Taft Rd, South of E. Ranger Rd.
43.148893, -84.523871

Join waterfowl experts and enthusiasts as we watch the skies during spring migration. Enjoy hands-on exhibits and learn about local conservation, outdoor opportunities and waterfowl habitat, and enjoy a self-guided tour of the Maple River SGA.

Mackinaw Raptor Fest
April 3-5
Mackinaw City Public School,
Mackinaw City, MI

Enjoy the fifth annual Raptor Fest! Hawk and waterbird watching, indoor educational programs, silent auction, field trips, live raptor programs and much more! To register, visit - www.mackinawraptorfest.org

Tawas Beginning Birder Tour
May 16-17

Tawas Point State Park, MI
Are you interested in learning the basics of birding and bird identification in an action-packed weekend at a premier birding spot? Then join birding guides Darrell Lawson and Linnea Rowse on a beginning birder tour in Iosco County to see a vibrant array of warblers during peak spring migration. Visit michiganaudubon.org for more information.

Do you have an event to share?
Email us at - caasCallNote@gmail.com
or share it on our Facebook page -
[facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/capitalareaaudubon)

CALL NOTE

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Join the CAAS Board!

We are looking for new applicants to serve on our board next year. For more information, please contact a board member or email us at caaudubon@gmail.com.